

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 CIAE-00

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 /093 W

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R 160851Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBUUSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6305

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET CH

SUBJECT: THE CHINESE IN ETHIOPIA

1. CHINA-WATCHERS WILL RECOGNIZE FAMILIAR PRC TECHNIQUE OF REGISTERING DISPLEASURE THROUGH COMPLAINT, MADE BY NCNA TWO WEEKS AGO, ABOUT ETHIOPIAN GOVT. NCNA REP IN ADDIS TOLD AFP CORRESPONDENT THAT PRC IS UNHAPPY WITH UNBALANCED ATTITUDE OF EPMG WHICH SENT A LOW-LEVEL DELEGATION TO STUDY AGRICULTURAL AND COOPERATIVE SUBJECTS IN THE PRC, BUT SENT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL DELEGATION FOR STUDY AND OBSERVATION IN THE USSR. COMMENT: TARGET ADDIANCE OF THIS COMPLAINT IS OBVIOUSLY ETHIOPIAN GOVT ITSELF RATHER THAN FOREIGN MEDIA. IN FACT, EPMG PROBABLY HAS NO INTENTION OF TILTING IN FAVOR OF USSR.

2. WE SPECULATE THAT PRC IS ALSO PROBABLY UNHAPPY ABOUT PUBLICITY IN PMAC CHAIRMAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE SEPT 14 TO FACT THAT 40 CHINESE "ADVISERS" HAD TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM LARGE ROAD-BUILDING PROJECT IN NORTHERN PROVINCES OF BEGEMDIR AND WOLLO. CHAIRMAN GAVE US REASON UNREST IN AREA, WHICH IS REAL ENOUGH, AND SAID THAT UNREST NOT DIRECTED AT CHINESE. WITHDRAWAL, WHICH MAY HAVE INVOLVED MORE THAN THE 40 ACKNOWLEDGED (OUT OF ABOUT 300 ROAD WORKERS), WAS EFFECTED ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO.

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3. PMAC HAS IN RECENT WEEKS BEEN GIVING WARNINGS TO RADICAL

ELEMENTS IN STUDENT "DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION" CAMPAIGN IN RURAL AREAS, SAYING THAT ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM IS NOT CARBON COPY OF ANY FOREIGN MODEL, AND DOES NOT FOLLOW ANY FOREIGN IDEOLOGY. BECAUSE SOME RADICAL AND DISRUPTIVE STUDENT CAMPAIGNERS HAVE OPENLY CALLED THEMSELVES "MAOISTS" THESE STATEMENTS BY PMAC HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS POINTED AT PRO-PRC RADICALS. COMMENT: ON BALANCE WE DOUBT THAT PRC WOULD WANT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLES BETWEEN RADICALS AND MODERATES; ON OTHER HAND, PRC APPARENTLY FOUND ITSELF UNABLE TO REFRAIN FROM DISTRIBUTING LITTLE RED BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS TO RADICAL AND OTHER ELEMENTS WHO REQUESTED THEM. AND OF COURSE, TOP PRIORITY IN PRC POLICY IS TO COUNTER SOVIET INFLUENCES. THUS WHETHER PRC WISHES IT OR NOT, PRC IS BEING ASSIGNED SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENT EXCESSES. EMBASSY HAD HOPED EXCESSES MIGHT CAUSE EPMG TO TURN AWAY FROM RADICAL LEFTIST TRENDS, BUT APPARENTLY RADICAL ELEMENTS IN RULING DIRG HAVE PREVENTED THIS. MOST RHETORICAL EPMG OUTPUT STILL ASSIGNS TO CONSERVATIVE AND REACTIONARY ELEMENTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHORTCOMINGS IN EPMG PERFORMANCE AND IN POPULAR SUPPORT. HUMMEL

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